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COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Twentieth session
Geneva, 2-11 May 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

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4. Role of transnational corporations in services.

5. International arrangements and agreements relating to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations, including guidelines and other instruments.

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8. Implementation of the programme on transnational corporations and consideration of future activities of the Commission.

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10. Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Commission.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

The proceedings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations are governed, mutatis mutandis, by the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council. Rule 18 thereof provides that the Bureau shall consist of five officers. The Commission may wish to follow the practice adopted at its previous sessions and elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission were approved by the Commission at its nineteenth session and by the Council in decision 1993/304.

3. Transnational corporations in the world economy and trends in foreign direct investment in developing countries in particular, including the interrelationship of investment, trade, technology and development

At its substantive session of 1993, the Council requested the Secretary-General to give priority to analytical studies, including those on global trends and determinants of foreign direct investment flows as related, inter alia, to transnational corporations and the impact of those trends, flows and stocks on all countries, in particular developing countries (resolution 1993/49, para. 6).

At its nineteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue the programme of research on transnational corporations in the world economy and flows of foreign direct investment to developing countries, and to disseminate the results of such research through various publications, including the World Investment Report and the World Investment Directory, and to submit to the Commission at its twentieth session reports on trends and issues in foreign direct investment (E/1993/30, chap. II, para. 19).

Documentation

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on trends in foreign direct investment (E/C.10/1994/2)

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on transnational corporations and employment (E/C.10/1994/3)

4. Role of transnational corporations in services

At its nineteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to strengthen in-depth research and technical cooperation in the area of services, taking into account the deliberations of the Commission, and to submit a report thereon to the Commission at its twentieth session (E/1993/30, chap. IV, para. 7).

Documentation

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on the expansion of foreign direct investment and trade in services (E/C.10/1994/4)

5. International arrangements and agreements relating to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations, including guidelines and other instruments

At its substantive session of 1993, the Council took note of the results of the consultations on the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations held by the President of the General Assembly from 21 to 23 July 1993 (resolution 1993/49, para. 14).

At the same session, the Council decided that the Commission should consider at its twentieth session presentations by relevant organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, on international arrangements and agreements relating to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations, including guidelines and other instruments (decision 1993/304).

6. Country and regional experiences in attracting foreign direct investment for development

At its substantive session of 1993, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its twentieth session an analytical and comparative report on the role of foreign direct investment in Africa, with recommendations on ways and means of improving foreign direct investment inflows throughout the African continent (resolution 1993/49, para. 7).

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on flows of foreign direct investment, paying special attention to the situation of the least developed countries and other developing countries outside Africa, with recommendations on how to improve flows to developing countries (resolution 1993/49, para. 8).

The Council called upon Member States to exchange information among themselves, their interested private sectors and all competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on their activities, programmes and experiences related to the promotion of foreign direct investment, in particular in developing countries (resolution 1993/49, para. 18).

Documentation

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on foreign direct investment in Africa (E/C.10/1994/5)

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on foreign direct investment in the least developed countries and other developing countries outside Africa (E/C.10/1994/6)

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on exchange of information on foreign direct investment (E/C.10/1994/7)

7. Experience gained in technical cooperation activities relating to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations

At its substantive session of 1993, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with multilateral organizations and financial institutions, to give priority to strengthening technical cooperation in order to enhance the capacities of developing countries and other recipient countries to create a favourable investment climate, including in the services sector, in the context of their economic programmes (resolution 1993/49, para. 4).

The Council requested the Secretary-General to continue activities in matters relating to the role of transnational corporations in the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises; it also requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote and to provide advice on the interrelationship between foreign direct investment and interregional, regional and subregional economic integration and technical and economic cooperation among developing countries (resolution 1993/49, paras. 11 and 12).

The Council invited Member States, in particular developed countries, to increase financial support flows for research, advisory and information work as it related to foreign investment (resolution 1993/49, para. 15).

At its nineteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its twentieth session reports on activities and experience gained in technical cooperation activities (E/1993/30, chap. VI, para. 44).

Documentation

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on technical cooperation activities (E/C.10/1994/8)

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on entrepreneurship and enterprise development (E/C.10/1994/9)

8. Implementation of the programme on transnational corporations and consideration of future activities of the Commission

The Commission, at its nineteenth session, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its twentieth session a report on the activities of the programme on transnational corporations, including those of the joint units established with the regional commissions (E/1993/30, chap. VI, para. 44).

At its substantive session of 1993, the Council reaffirmed the validity of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the need to further strengthen its role as the focal point within the United Nations system for comprehensive intergovernmental consideration of issues concerning foreign direct investment as related to transnational corporations; and decided that the Commission should review its future activities at its twentieth session and, if appropriate, make

recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social fields (resolution 1993/49, paras. 2 and 24).

The Council also decided that the draft resolutions contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its eleventh session should be considered by the Commission at its twentieth session (resolution 1993/49, para. 16). The Commission will have before it the reports of the Working Group on its eleventh and twelfth sessions.

Documentation

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on the activities of the programme on transnational corporations (E/C.10/1994/10)

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on technical assistance for a new South Africa (E/C.10/1994/11)

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its eleventh session (E/C.10/1993/12)

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its twelfth session (E/C.10/1994/12)

9. Question of expert advisers

In accordance with the modalities for the selection, rotation and participation of expert advisers adopted by the Commission at its sixth session, the Commission will have before it information on candidates to serve as expert advisers until the end of the twenty-second session.

Documentation

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat on the question of expert advisers (E/C.10/1994/13)

10. Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Commission

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-first session, together with a list of the documents to be submitted for each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

In resolution 1979/41, the Council decided that the provisional agenda for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, should be submitted to the Council for review, in order, inter alia, to establish

greater consistency between the requests for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget. In resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, the Council urged its subsidiary bodies to implement fully resolution 1979/41. In this connection, it will be recalled that the Council urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation (Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50).

In decision 1983/163, the Council decided to request the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session

The Commission will adopt its report to the Economic and Social Council.

In resolution 1989/114, the Council requested its subsidiary bodies to highlight policy recommendations and decisions resulting from their deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council.